

Florida §1115 Cash and Counseling Demonstration

FACT SHEET

Name of Section 1115 Demonstration:	Consumer Directed Care
Date Proposal Submitted:	May 16, 1996
Date Proposal Approved:	October 9, 1998
Scheduled Expiration Date:	February 28, 2008
Date Demonstration Implemented:	March 1, 2000
Request to Amend Demonstration Design:	September 10, 2002
Demonstration Design Amendment Approved:	February 12, 2003
Request to Eliminate Experimental Design:	December 23, 2002
Eliminate Experimental Design Amendment Approved:	May 30, 2003

SUMMARY

Florida is one of three states participating in the Cash and Counseling Demonstration Project sponsored jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Department of Health and Human Services. Cash and Counseling is a self-directed program that is designed to ensure the personal voice and control of consumers in decision-making. This demonstration supports the Olmstead Decision by promoting community-based services for persons with disabilities who otherwise would be entitled to institutional services. Services are delivered in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities. Eligible beneficiaries are randomized into two groups: a treatment group which receives a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase needed services under the personal care benefit, and a control group, which receives services under the traditional (agency-furnished) method.

Florida's Cash and Counseling Demonstration entitled "Consumer Directed Care," is offered to four distinct Medicaid populations: frail elders, adults with physical disabilities, adults with developmental disabilities, and children with developmental disabilities. The State was approved by CMS on February 12, 2003, to also serve a special fifth population called the "Choice and Control" population. This population consists of approximately 150 individuals who were directing their own care through a State operated program when funding was cut, and through the Consumer Directed Care program were allowed to continue self-direction.

Florida's most recent amendment approvals allows the Consumer Directed Care demonstration to be offered statewide to all eligible individuals and offer the cash allowance to *all* demonstration participants.

Florida is the first State to amend its Section 1115 demonstration through the *Independence Plus* initiative, a recent HHS initiative designed to help states develop consumer-directed services. Florida's *Independence Plus* demonstration amendments support President Bush's *New Freedom Initiative* as it allows participants to live in their family residence or their own home and have control over the planning and purchase of long-term supports and services by way of a cash allowance. Florida's *Independence Plus* demonstration amendment will allow the State to continue to demonstrate that allowing individuals to self-direct through a cash allowance promotes program efficiencies that result in Medicaid savings.

ELIGIBILITY

- Medicaid eligibles qualifying under one of five populations:
 - frail elders
 - adults with physical disabilities
 - adults with developmental disabilities
 - children with developmental disabilities
 - former "Choice and Control" participant
- Require assistance with activities of daily living.
- Be willing to receive a cash allowance in lieu of personal care services via an agency.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Treatment group consumers receive a monthly cash allotment with which to purchase needed services under the personal care benefit. Beneficiaries, or their parents if they are minors, may hire their own workers and determine which services they need, along with how much of a service to receive. Beneficiaries may choose to manage their care independently, or with the assistance of a Fiscal Intermediary to handle paperwork functions.

Individuals assigned to the control group receive services from traditional Medicaid providers, with the State making all vendor payments.

ENROLLMENT

Florida has an enrollment limit of 3500 persons. As of December 2002, approximately 1,128 individuals were receiving cash allowances under the Consumer Directed Care demonstration. This amendment is projected to increase the number of individuals directing their care via the cash allowance by more than 2000.

ENROLLMENT/DISENROLLMENT PROCESS

The demonstration is voluntary, and participants may disenroll from the treatment group at any time. Participants will be involuntarily disenrolled from the treatment group if there is misuse of the cash grant, if the participant's ability to manage their cash grant declines and there is no representative available, or if the participant fails to provide documentation of uses of the cash grant.

DELIVERY SYSTEM

Personal care services are provided to consumers enrolled in the treatment group by providers of their choosing. Treatment group consumers determine the services they need, and from whom to receive them. The consumers pay their workers from accounts set-up for them through the State, which contains the amount of funds the Medicaid program would have spent on their personal care services.

Control group consumers continue to receive personal care services through the traditional agency model.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Florida will use the following quality assurance strategies:

- Further utilize surveys to evaluate participant satisfaction.
- Safeguards in place for participant protections.
- Continued use of mechanisms, such as counselors and fiscal intermediary services, to ensure the needs of vulnerable populations are met.

Additional information should be directed to the CMS Project Officer – Tonya Moore at 410-786-0019 or tmoore1@cms.hhs.gov